

Serial No. 10/017,589

Docket No. HI-0059

Amendment dated December 18, 2006

Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2006

REMARKS

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

By the present response, Applicant has canceled claim 9 without disclaimer and amended claims 1 and 9 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-8 and 10-18 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,333,927 (Han). Claims 9-12 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 13-18 have been allowed.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 13-18 and indicating that claims 9-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 with the subject matter of claim 9 thus putting this application in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Han. Applicant has amended claim 1 with the subject matter of claim 9, deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-8 are patentable over the cited reference at least for these reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-8 and 10-18 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Frederick D. Bailey, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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